

Appln. No. 09/911,522
Amendment dated March 14, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims (deleted text being struck through and added text being underlined):

- 1 1. (Previously Presented) A method for the automatic harvesting and
- 2 qualification of dynamic database content comprising:
- 3 obtaining an initial categorization structure for organizing a plurality
- 4 of subject areas of information;
- 5 obtaining a plurality of parametric information lists for optimizing
- 6 operation to a user's requirements;
- 7 obtaining a candidate database listing having a plurality of databases
- 8 each having a collection of content;
- 9 acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases from said
- 10 candidate database listing by matching each one of a candidate databases to
- 11 said plurality of subject areas;
- 12 obtaining a query from the user, said query being associated with a
- 13 subject area;
- 14 submitting said query to said plurality of qualified databases;
- 15 acquiring a collection of responsive content from said plurality of
- 16 qualified databases;
- 17 indexing said responsive content to form an index of facilitating
- 18 searching said collection of responsive content;
- 19 publishing a summary of said collection of responsive content for
- 20 review by the user.

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1 2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 obtaining a plurality of parametric information lists further comprises:
3 ~~obtaining a candidate database listing providing a plurality of~~
4 ~~databases to be considered for said step of acquiring a plurality of qualified~~
5 ~~databases;~~
6 obtaining an exclusion list providing a plurality of terms and sources
7 to inhibit associations for said step of acquiring a collection of responsive
8 content;
9 obtaining an inclusion list providing a plurality of terms and sources
10 restricting associations for said step of acquiring a collection of responsive
11 content;
12 obtaining a stop list providing a plurality of terms to be excluded for
13 said step of indexing said responsive content.

1 3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3 capturing an initial page from each one of said plurality of candidate
4 databases;
5 evaluating said initial page for relevancy to said each one of said
6 subject areas;
7 ~~qualifying~~ selecting databases according to relevance to said subject
8 areas;
9 associating said ~~qualified~~ selected databases with said subject areas.

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1 4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
2 obtaining a database relevancy parameter for restricting the
3 qualification of databases below a minimum threshold value;
4 comparing the relevance of each initial page to said relevancy
5 parameter;
6 removing each candidate database with a relevancy below said
7 minimum threshold value from qualification.

1 5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[[1]]] 3, wherein said
2 step of acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3 submitting a query to each ~~one~~ of said selected databases;
4 capturing a plurality of pieces of responsive content provided by each
5 ~~one~~ of said selected databases;
6 evaluating each ~~one~~ of said plurality of pieces of responsive content
7 for relevancy to said query;
8 assigning a numerical score to each one of said plurality of pieces of
9 responsive content, said numerical score representing a degree of relevance
10 to said query;
11 developing an aggregate score for each one of said selected databases;
12 ~~selecting~~ qualifying a portion of said selected databases to be polled
13 ~~for content based upon said aggregate score to be polled for content.~~

1 6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein said step of
2 capturing a plurality of pieces of responsive content further comprises:
3 obtaining a content parameter limiting the number of pieces of content
4 to be captured from each ~~one~~ of said selected databases;
5 obtaining an initial weighting of each ~~one~~ of said pieces of responsive
6 content from said selected database;
7 selecting a quantity of pieces of responsive content limited by said
8 content parameter such that pieces of responsive content with a relatively
9 greater initial weighting are selected before pieces of responsive content

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10 with a relatively lesser initial weighting.

1 7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3 capturing an initial page from each ~~one~~ of said plurality of candidate
4 databases;
5 evaluating said initial page for relevancy to said each ~~one~~ of said
6 subject areas;
7 obtaining a database relevancy parameter for restricting the
8 qualification of databases below a minimum threshold value;
9 comparing the relevance of each initial page to said relevancy
10 parameter;
11 removing each candidate database with a relevancy below said
12 minimum threshold value from qualification;
13 ~~qualifying~~ selecting databases according to relevance to said subject
14 areas;
15 submitting a query to ~~each one of~~ said selected databases;
16 capturing a plurality of pieces of responsive content provided by ~~each~~
17 ~~one of~~ said selected databases;
18 obtaining a content parameter limiting the number of pieces of content
19 to be captured from ~~each one of~~ said selected databases;
20 obtaining an initial weighting of each ~~one~~ of said pieces of responsive
21 content from said database;
22 selecting a quantity of pieces of responsive content limited by said
23 content parameter such that pieces of responsive content with a relatively
24 greater initial weighting are selected before pieces of responsive content
25 with a relatively lesser initial weighting;
26 evaluating each ~~one~~ of said plurality of pieces of responsive content
27 for relevancy to said query;
28 assigning a numerical score to each ~~one~~ of said plurality of pieces of
29 responsive content, said numerical score representing a degree of relevance

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30 to said query;
31 developing an aggregate score for each ~~one~~ of said selected databases;
32 ~~selecting qualifying apportion of said selected databases to be polled~~
33 ~~for content~~ based upon said aggregate score to be polled for content;
34 associating said qualified databases with said subject areas.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of acquiring a
2 plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3 analyzing an initial page from each one of said plurality of qualified
4 databases for formatting;
5 determining an input location for passing queries by said initial page
6 to each one of said plurality of databases;
7 determining results locations for capturing search results returned
8 from each one of said plurality of databases;
9 recording said input location and said results locations for use in
10 formatting queries for each one of said databases.

1 9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of acquiring a
2 collection of responsive content further comprises:
3 comparing each piece of responsive content to each one of said subject
4 areas in said initial categorization structure;
5 matching each piece of responsive content to subject areas based on
6 relevance of the responsive content to the subject areas;
7 filtering matches to optimize said categorization structure.

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1 10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of filtering
2 matches further comprises:
3 removing duplicate pieces of responsive content;
4 obtaining a population parameter for limiting a number of pieces of
5 responsive content which may be matched to any one subject area;
6 obtaining an occurrence parameter for limiting a number of subject
7 areas to which any one piece of responsive content may be matched;
8 restricting matches for each one of said subject areas according to said
9 occurrence parameter and said population parameter.

1 11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein said step of filtering
2 matches further comprises:
3 obtaining an exclusion list to inhibit matches based on predetermined
4 words and sources;
5 obtaining an inclusion list to restrict matches based on predetermined
6 words and sources;
7 matching each piece of responsive content with subject areas
8 according to said exclusion list and said inclusion list.

1 12. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 creating a categorization file for recording matches between each
3 piece of responsive content and each subject area;
4 saving said categorization file to a storage medium for use in
5 searching said collection of responsive content.

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1 13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of indexing
2 said responsive content further comprises:
3 obtaining a stop list providing a list of words not to be indexed;
4 parsing each piece of responsive content into constituent words;
5 eliminating words of said responsive content occurring on said stop
6 lists;
7 recording a location of every occurrence of constituent words in said
8 collection of responsive content.

1 14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of publishing
2 a summary further comprises:
3 determining if a summary is provided for each piece of said responsive
4 content;
5 examining each piece of said responsive content for keywords
6 associated with each subject area;
7 developing a keyword summary score for each piece of responsive
8 content;
9 examining each piece of said responsive content for relevant extracts
10 forming an extract summary;
11 developing an extract score for each piece of responsive content;
12 comparing said keyword summary score to said extract score for a
13 summary composite score;
14 selecting said keyword summary if a predetermined summary value is
15 exceeded by said summary composite score;
16 selecting said extract summary if a predetermined summary value if
17 not exceeded by said summary composite score.

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1 15. (Currently Amended) A system for the automatic harvesting and
2 qualification of dynamic database content comprising:

3 a computer system having a communication means for communicating
4 with at least one other computer including a database to facilitate the two-
5 way flow of information between said computer system and the at least one
6 other computer;

7 said computer system having a storage means for retention and recall
8 of data communicated by or to the at least one other computer;

9 said computer system having a processing means for executing
10 multiple software modules and performing comparisons between a user
11 supplied query and a plurality of documents found in at least one other
12 computer;

13 an index for storing a plurality of pre-approved internet sites to be
14 included in a series of queries;

15 a configuration module adapted for translating a generic query into
16 site-specific dialects such ~~that~~ that a single user defined query may be
17 directed to multiple sites automatically;

18 a selection module adapted for characterizing said plurality of
19 documents returned by the database of the at least one other computer and
20 associated with said user defined query;

21 a results index to allow for rapid recovery of specific portions of any
22 one of said plurality of documents characterized by said selection module;
23 and

24 a generator module for automatically generating at least one results
25 page for the user conveying information associated with any one of said
26 plurality of documents associated with said query.

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1 16. (Currently Amended) A method for the automatic harvesting and
2 qualification of dynamic database content comprising:
3 obtaining an initial categorization structure for organizing a plurality
4 of subject areas of information;
5 obtaining a plurality of parametric information lists for optimizing
6 operation to a user's requirements;
7 obtaining a candidate database listing having a plurality of databases
8 each having a collection of content, each one of said plurality of databases
9 providing a dynamic response based upon a specific query;
10 acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases from said
11 candidate database listing by matching each one of a candidate databases to
12 said plurality of subject areas;
13 obtaining a query from the user, said query being associated with a
14 subject area;
15 submitting said query to said plurality of qualified databases;
16 acquiring a collection of responsive content from said plurality of
17 qualified databases;
18 indexing said responsive content to form an index of facilitating
19 searching said collection of responsive content;
20 publishing a summary of said collection of responsive content for
21 review by the user.

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1 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said step
2 of acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3 analyzing an initial page from each one of said plurality of qualified
4 databases for formatting;
5 determining an input location on said initial page for passing queries
6 by said initial page to each one of said plurality of databases;
7 analyzing a results page from each one of said plurality of qualified
8 databases for formatting;
9 determining results locations on said results page for capturing search
10 results returned from each one of said plurality of databases;
11 recording said input location and said results locations for use in
12 formatting queries for each one of said databases.

1 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step
2 of acquiring a plurality of qualified databases further comprises:
3 analyzing an initial page from each one of said plurality of qualified
4 databases for formatting;
5 determining an input location on said initial page for passing queries
6 by said initial page to each one of said plurality of databases;
7 analyzing a results page from each one of said plurality of qualified
8 databases for formatting;
9 determining results locations on said results page for capturing search
10 results returned from each one of said plurality of databases;
11 recording said input location and said results locations for use in
12 formatting queries for each one of said databases.

1 19 (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of
2 acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases further comprises
3 acquiring a listing of a plurality of qualified databases each generating
4 dynamic responses based upon a user query.

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- 1 20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising
- 2 the step of generating at least one summary comprising at least one extract
- 3 of relevant content taken directly from an associated at least one item in
- 4 said collection of responsive content from said plurality of qualified
- 5 databases.